

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:703
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
CONDITIONAL ACCESS SYSTEM
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy regarding implementation of Condition Access System in the country;
- (b) whether CAS has been implemented uniformly in the whole country;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the response of the State Governments to CAS;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review the implementation of CAS;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to bring uniformity in implementation of CAS?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a): The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2002 empowers the Government to issue notifications in public interest, making it obligatory for every cable operator to transmit or re-transmit programmes of pay channels through an addressable system (commonly known as Conditional Access System) with effect from such dates as may be specified in the notification and different dates may be specified for different States, cities, towns or areas as the case may be.

(b) to (d): Conditional Access System (CAS) was sought to be implemented in a phased manner in four Metro cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in one go. The implementation of CAS ran into operational difficulties in the metros cities, owing to a deep divide among the stakeholders, i.e. the broadcasters, multi-service operators and local cable operators, impinging on consumer's interest. This led to the suspension of implementation of CAS in all the four metro cities in February, 2004. However, CAS is currently under implementation in Chennai city on the strength of the Madras High Court Order. During the course of implementation, all the State Governments had opposed its implementation mainly citing the problems being faced by consumers. The issue of implementation of CAS is currently sub-judice.

(e) to (g): In view of the difficulties encountered during the implementation of CAS, the Government had referred the matter to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in Jan. 2004, which has furnished its detailed recommendations in October, 2004. The Government is yet to take a final decision on these recommendations.